Bridging the Gaps: Finding Creative Solutions to Unmet Needs in a Growing Library Publishing Program

Julia Lovett  
*University of Rhode Island, jalovett@uri.edu*

Andrée Rathemacher  
*University of Rhode Island, andree@uri.edu*

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University of Rhode Island Libraries

capilano suspension bridge, by Flickr user Alyssa BLACK. CC BY-SA 2.0
Our Project

- Conduct an assessment of the University of Rhode Island Libraries journal publishing program, supported by the Libraries through our Bepress repository
- Opportunity to get feedback and streamline program
- Particularly interested in where editors are finding “creative solutions” to keep their journals going
  - Provide ideas for other OA journal publishing programs on tight budgets
  - Indicate where more support is needed
Background - Publishing @ URI

- One librarian and one staff involved in publishing services (small piece of all of our jobs)
- Maintain contract with Bepress
- Coordinate the journal setup
- Assist (often extensively) with migrating content and metadata from other systems
- Apply for DOAJ listing
- Apply for ISSN
- Maintain Crossref contract and train editors in creating DOI’s
- Respond quickly to questions and problems
Journals published through DigitalCommons@URI
Editors

Brent Jesiek, Purdue University
Sigrid Berka, University of Rhode Island
Damon Rarick, University of Rhode Island

The *Journal of International Engineering Education* (JIEE) builds on the solid foundations of its predecessor journal (the *Online Journal for Global Engineering Education*). Our editorial team is injecting new life and vitality into this peer-reviewed publication outlet. Our goal is to work closely with our contributing authors to nurture and disseminate high quality research and scholarship to academics and professionals who are engaged in all facets of internationalizing engineering education. Aligned with this mission, our revised call for papers invites contributions in three main categories: research, practice, and perspectives.

To contact the JIEE editors, email jiee@uri.edu.

Current Issue: Volume 1, Issue 1 (2018)
The Journal of Media Literacy Education is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal that supports the development of research, scholarship and the pedagogy of media literacy education. It is the official journal of the National Association for Media Literacy Education. No author fees are charged for publication in this journal.

Current Issue: Volume 11, Issue 1 (2019)

Research Articles

PDF Preparing Pre-Service Teachers to Teach Media Literacy: A Response to “Fake News”
Todd S. Chernoff and Kristal Curry

PDF Critical Awareness of Media and Teacher Education: An Experience with Colombian ELT Pre-Service Teachers
Camillo Domínguez
Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence is an open access, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal dedicated to publishing original articles on topics related to dignity, sexual exploitation, and violence.


Editorial

Filling the Sex Trade Swamp: Robert Kraft and His Predecessors
Janice G. Raymond

Research and Scholarly Articles

“Baby Factories”: Exploitation of Women in Southern Nigeria
Jacinta Chiamaka Nwaka and Akachi Odoemene

Multiple and Intersecting Experiences of Women in Prostitution:
Markets, Globalization & Development Review (MGDR) is an international peer reviewed and open access online journal exploring the intersections and interstices of markets, globalization and development from interdisciplinary lenses.

See the Aims & Scope for a complete coverage of the journal.

Current Issue: Volume 3, Number 3 (2018)
Virtual Platforms: Spaces of Control and Contestation

Editorial
Welcome to the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*

The *Journal of Feminist Scholarship* is a twice-yearly, peer-reviewed, open-access journal published online and aimed at promoting feminist scholarship across the disciplines, as well as expanding the reach and definitions of feminist research.

**Editors**

Executive Editor: Heather M. Turcotte, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Co-Editor: Anupama Arora, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Co-Editor: Anna M. Klobucka, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Co-Editor: Jeannette E. Riley, University of Rhode Island
Project Design

- Sent out requests for interviews to all editors and other individuals identified as having a significant role in the journal
- Conducted 3 focus groups with 9 total interviewees (representing all 5 journals)
- Asked questions including:
  - What is your role in the journals?
  - What services do you value? What services are lacking?
  - What resources have you used, outside of the Libraries, to support the journal?
  - How has editing an OA journal influenced you?
Common Themes - what’s working?

- Library support during setup and a “point of crisis” is highly valuable
- BePress tech support is responsive and accommodating
- The platform is generally viewed favorably
  - Journal metrics; shareable dashboard
  - Flexible
  - Easy to use
Common Themes - what’s not working?

- Copy editing is burdensome - this was the **#1 complaint**
- Templating and layout is onerous (done outside of the platform)
- Lack of time and energy to keep things going, too much work and too few people (“our editor is headed for a nervous breakdown”)
- Lack of indexing (e.g. in Scopus)
- Creating DOI’s and complying with Crossref’s requirements can be difficult, even though DOI’s are valued
- One-time resources to establish the journal, but no resources to keep updating and adding new features
What other resources have bridged the gaps?

- **Funding:**
  - Small institutional grants or startup money
  - Funding from other institution (JFS)
  - Editors paying out of pocket

- **Labor:**
  - Volunteers from the scholarly community or parent organizations
  - Freelance or volunteer help, e.g. for design and templates
  - Student workers (paid, either hourly or wrapped into TAship)
  - Students doing unpaid internships or independent studies for credit
What other resources have bridged the gaps?

- Tools:
  - Constant Contact (email and marketing) - paid for out of pocket
  - Grammarly Pro - paid for out of pocket
  - Recite Works - free
Editor wish list - What additional services do they want?

- Help with copy editing (#1 complaint), designing templates, other “editorial assistant” types of tasks
  - Freeing up the editors to work on content
- Guidance on indexing in Scopus, Web of Science, and perhaps others
- Creating a pipeline for students to be involved in journal production and marketing
  - Note: editors had conflicting experiences with student workers
- Promoting the journal; reaching out to readers, reviewers, and potential authors
How has editing an OA journal informed your career as a scholar?

- Making connections with other scholars and communities, often on a global scale
- Opportunity to mentor new authors
- Learning from new content and improving their own writing
Unexpected takeaways

- Even though we “only” have five journals, they are all serving a real need of creating new knowledge and fostering connections.
- Lively cross-pollination of ideas and questions; do we need an “editor coffee hour”??
- Interviewees were passionate about their journals and enthusiastic participants. “This was better than therapy!”
Next steps

• Provide more opportunities for editors to communicate with each other and the library
• Improve journal documentation and training based on feedback
• Look into creating a pipeline for URI students to participate in journal production
• Explore feasibility of assisting with specific requests (indexing, DOI help, copy editing, etc.)
• Better demonstrate the value of the library publishing program to administrators
Questions?

Contact:

Julia Lovett, jalovett@uri.edu

Andrée Rathemacher, andree@uri.edu